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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/453,480	12/09/1999	ROGER G. M. LUCASSEN	RANPP0305USA	2696

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EXAMINER

KIM, EUGENE LEE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3721

DATE MAILED: 03/13/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/453,480

Applicant(s)

LUCASSEN ET AL.

Examiner

Eugene L. Kim

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 January 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4-9, 11 and 12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4-9, 11, 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 5) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. Claims 1, 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson in view of Ratzel as discussed in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the last office action.

Johnson shows multiple plies as claimed wherein the plies move in their separate paths as shown in the figures. Johnson does not show the damper and separators as claimed. Ratzel shows a biased damper 70 and a plurality of separators 75-77 in a dunnage conversion machine. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide Johnson with biased damper and separators as taught by Ratzel to provide tension on the web and to separate a plurality of webs individually.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. Claims 4, 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Simmons as discussed in paragraph 3 of the last office action.

3. Claims 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Simmons in view of Huston et al as discussed in paragraph 4 of the last office action.

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims supra have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

In response to applicant's argument regarding at least two plies, Johnson discloses using a multiple of plies. Johnson also shows entry guides which form first and second paths for the separate plies as claimed.

In response to applicant's argument regarding the movable shutter as claimed, the examiner notes that although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations

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from the specification are not read into the claims. The shutter means of Simmons reads on the presently recited claims. Shutter 73 is movable with the blade means 72 wherein the strip path is blocked with the blade and shutter means when the blade is in its extended position. The claim furthermore, only recites "substantially" which is given a broad recitation.

In response to applicant's argument that the references Huston and Simmons are not properly combinable, the test for obviousness is not whether the features of a secondary reference may be bodily incorporated into the structure of the primary reference; nor is it that the claimed invention must be expressly suggested in any one or all of the references. Rather, the test is what the combined teachings of the references would have suggested to those of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981). In this case, both references are analogous in that they both show cutting workpieces.

In response to the flush limitation in claim 5, the examiner notes that Huston has a surface that is flush with the blade wherein the blade is inserted in the shutter means. The exterior surface of the shutter means at the insertion area of the blade into the shutter means is inherently flush with the blade means as claimed.

In response to applicant's argument regarding claim 6, as shown in figure 12, the blade is in holder means 38 as claimed. This reads on the presently recited claims.

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO**

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MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eugene L. Kim whose telephone number is (703) 308-1886.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)305-3579 for regular communications and (703)305-3579 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-1148.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eugene Kim', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Eugene Kim
March 11, 2002